

OXFORD TREES, PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Minutes – February 16, 2021

MEMBERS: Cheryl Ready, Chair; Nakeisha Cummings, Theresa Eady, Mike McQuaide, Michael Rogers, and Anderson Wright.

STAFF: Beryl Budd, City Arborist; Matthew Pepper, City Manager.

GUESTS: Jeff Wearing and Laura McCanless, City Council Members.

OPENING: At 5:02 PM, Ms. Ready called the meeting to order and welcomed the guests.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Ms. Eady, seconded by Mr. McQuaide, the minutes for the meeting of January 19, 2021 were adopted. The vote was 6-0.

ELECTIONS: The Board discussed electing officers for 2021. The officers are: Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary.

Upon motion of Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Rogers, Ms. Ready was elected as Chair, Mr. Rogers was elected as Vice-Chair, and Ms. Eady was elected as Secretary. The vote was 6-0.

FENCING AT GEORGE STREET PARK: The Board discussed the project to replace the existing split-rail fence at George Street Park. Mr. Wearing shared that the City Council agreed to explore the option to replace the fence using local volunteers. Mr. Wearing further explained that the City Council asked him to lead the project. In addition, Mr. Wearing shared that he determined that only twenty-seven (27) rails and nine (9) posts needed replacement. The cost for each rail and post is \$15.71 and \$26, respectively. Mr. Wearing thought the project could be completed for approximately \$700. He asked the Board to help him find volunteers for the project.

The Board expressed their support for replacing the fence with volunteers at the cost shared by Mr. Wearing. He will follow up with the Council at the March Regular Session Meeting.

GUIDELINES FOR DONATIONS FOR ASBURY STREET PARK: The Commission reviewed the first draft of the guidelines for donations for Asbury Street Park. During the review, the Commission agreed to expand the opportunity for a donation to all recreational areas and property owned by the city. In addition, they agreed that it was important to not limit the opportunity to provide a donation from Newton County residents only. They discussed expanding the items that could be donated to include benches, picnic tables, and trees. Also, the Board discussed which party (the city or donor) would replace an item that was damaged. The Board will continue discussing this item at their March meeting.

FY2022 BUDGET REQUEST: The Board discussed their FY2022 budget request. During the discussion, the Board reviewed Mr. Budd's assessment of the number of trees that need pruning (either structural or crown). Upon review of Mr. Budd's assessment, the Board determined that they would need to increase the current budget by \$5,000 to stay current with the volume of trees that need pruning. The additional \$5,000 would bring the total pruning budget to \$9,000 for FY2022. They will share their recommendation with the City Council before the March Work Session meeting.

BOARD MISSION STATEMENT: The Board conducted a final review of their Mission Statement.

Upon motion of Ms. Eady, seconded by Mr. McQuaide, the Trees, Parks and Recreation Board adopted the Mission Statement. The vote was 6-0.

TREE REPLACEMENT AT ASBURY STREET PARK: The Board discussed the city's project to replace nine (9) Ginkgo trees at Asbury Street Park. During the discussion, Mr. Budd reported that the trees will be replaced on Monday, February 22nd. The city will use a small auger when removing the trees to help limit

the damage to the root ball and surrounding sod. The Board agreed to give the Ginkgo trees to Mr. Budd for replant at his disposal.

Upon motion of Mr. McQuaide, seconded by Ms. Eady, the Trees, Parks and Recreation Board approved giving the existing Ginkgo trees to Mr. Budd for his professional disposal. The vote was 6-0.

MEMBERSHIP: The Board discussed filling the existing vacancy. Board members will continue to reach out to potential candidates individually. They will continue their discussion at the March meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS: The Board did not discuss any items related to other business.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Ready adjourned the meeting at 6:08 PM.

Submitted by:

Theresa Eady, Secretary